



Bangladesh : Tabassum

Bank Clerk and LGBT Activist

Tabassum identifies as a **lesbian** and has recently become an active voice for the rights of the LGBT community in Bangladesh. During the day, she works as a clerk at a local bank. She volunteers at an **unregistered** LGBT rights organization. She also works with other activist groups for local and international **advocacy**. She is out to a few of her friends, but not to her colleagues or family.

In order to conduct meetings with other LGBT activists and the community, Tabassum needs to rely heavily on **messaging applications** like Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp. She also uses her personal email regularly to communicate with ally organizations.

"If not me, then who? If not now, then when?"

Goals

Tabassum wants to **advance the LGBT rights movement** in Bangladesh by repealing Section 377.

She also wants to **raise awareness** and implement sensitization programs designed to create an accepting and inclusive society.

#rights #advocacy

Threats

Partly Free
(Freedom on the Net 2017)

Homosexuality is **illegal** in Bangladesh and LGBT activists can be **arrested** by authorities according to Section 377 of the law.

There have been reports that activists are under **digital surveillance** from both the government and religious militant groups. These activists are being **tracked** through social media.

#surveillance #arrest



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Strengths

Tabassum has a strong peer activist **network for support**.

She knows which communication tools use **encryption** and which do not.

She always meets other activists in **public places** or a **secure home**.

Questions

How do I know if I am under **surveillance**?

How can I stop information from being **leaked** to other people?